

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 1, 4, 10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hüskens et al. (U.S. 5,836,768). In addition, claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Park et al. (U.S. 2002/0182560 A1) in view of Watt et al. (U.S. 5,707,231). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Firstly, the '781 Hüskens et al. patent discloses a dental implant having a separate anchoring base or bracket 50 that is bonded to the implant. The bracket 50 is used to fasten orthodontic wires or springs. Thus, the '768 patent teaches the attachment of wires to a separate bracket that is bonded to the side of the implant, rather than directly to the head of the implant. Moreover, the wires in the Hüskens et al. device must be inserted through an opening 53 in the bracket, as opposed to the more convenient recess provided by the present invention which is formed in an outer surface of the head of the implant.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to emphasize these distinctions. Accordingly, claim 1 as well as those claims dependent thereon are believed to clearly patentably distinguish the present invention over the '768 Hüskens et al. reference.


The above-noted rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is based principally upon the Park et al. published application, which has an effective U.S. filing

date of July 5, 2001, subsequent to the priority date of the present application claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119. Accordingly, the Park et al. application is not prior art to the present application, and therefore the rejection based upon the citation to Park et al. is believed to be inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

For the above stated reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 3, 2006

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